

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A method of blurring a digital video image having a plurality of pixels, each having a value specifying color data, said method comprising:
 Identifying a particular pixel of the plurality of pixels;
 Selecting P pixels from the plurality of pixels wherein the selected pixels are different from the particular pixel;
 Determining a blurred value as a function of only the values of the selected pixels; and
 Replacing the value of the particular pixel with the blurred value.

2. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein $P=2^N$, $N = 1, 2$ or 3 and wherein the selected pixels are ~~different from and~~ contiguous to the particular pixel.

3. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein $P=2^N$ and further comprising identifying another pixel of the plurality of pixels other than the particular pixel as an additional particular pixel, and for said additional particular pixel:
 Selecting 2^M additional pixels from the plurality of pixels, where M is a positive integer and wherein the selected additional pixels are different from the additional particular pixel;
 Determining an additional blurred value as a function of only the values of the selected additional pixels; and
 Replacing the value of the additional particular pixel with the additional blurred value.

4. (currently amended) The method of claim 3 wherein $P=2^N$ and wherein $N = 1, 2$ or 3 and wherein the selected pixels are ~~different from and~~ contiguous to the particular pixel and to the additional particular pixel.

5. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein $P=2^N$ and further comprising identifying each of the plurality of pixels other than the particular pixel as an additional particular pixel, and for each said additional particular pixel:
 - Selecting 2^M additional pixels from the plurality of pixels, where M is a positive integer and wherein the selected additional pixels are different from the additional
 - particular pixel;
 - Determining an additional blurred value as a function of only the values of the selected additional pixels; and
 - Replacing the value of the additional particular pixel with the additional blurred value.

6. (currently amended) The method of claim 5 wherein $P=2^N$ and wherein $N = 1, 2$ or 3 and wherein the selected pixels are ~~different from and~~ contiguous to the particular pixel and to the additional particular pixels.

7. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein $P=2^N$ and wherein determining comprises calculating an average of the values of the selected pixels and wherein replacing comprises replacing the value of the particular pixel with the average.

8. (currently amended) ~~The method of claim 7~~ A method of blurring a digital video image having a plurality of pixels, each having a value specifying color data, said method comprising:
Identifying a particular pixel of the plurality of pixels;
Selecting P pixels from the plurality of pixels;
Determining a blurred value as a function of the values of the selected pixels; and
Replacing the value of the particular pixel with the blurred value wherein $P=2^N$, wherein determining comprises calculating an average of the values of the selected pixels, wherein replacing comprises replacing the value of the particular pixel with the average, wherein $N = 1$, wherein determining comprises masking the least significant bit of the value of each selected pixel, dividing the masked value of each selected pixel by 2 to get a divided value for each selected pixel, and summing the divided values to get a total value, and wherein replacing comprising replacing the value of the particular pixel with the total value.
9. (original) The method of claim 8 wherein dividing comprising right shifting by one bit the bits of the value of each selected pixel.

10. (currently amended) The method of claim [[7]] 8 wherein $N = 2$, wherein determining comprises masking the least significant bit and masking the second least significant bit of the value of each selected pixel, dividing the masked value of each selected pixel by 4 to get a divided value for each selected pixel, and summing the divided values to get a total value, and wherein replacing comprising replacing the value of the particular pixel with the total value.
11. (original) The method of claim 10 wherein dividing comprising right shifting by two bits the bits of the value of each selected pixel.
12. (currently amended) The method of claim [[7]] 8 wherein $N = 3$, wherein determining comprises masking the least significant bit, masking the second least significant bit and masking the third least significant bit of the value of each selected pixel, dividing the masked value of each selected pixel by 8 to get a divided value for each selected pixel, and summing the divided values to get a total value, and wherein replacing comprising replacing the value of the particular pixel with the total value.
13. (original) The method of claim 12 wherein dividing comprising right shifting by three bits the bits of the value of each selected pixel.
14. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein $P=2^N$ and wherein the determining and replacing is accomplished by processing all channels of the selected pixel in parallel.

15. (currently amended) A system for blurring a digital video image having a plurality of pixels, each having a value specifying color data, said system comprising:

A memory storing the values of the pixels of the digital video image; and

A processor for:

Identifying a particular pixel of the plurality of pixels;

Selecting P pixels from the plurality of pixels wherein the selected pixels are different from the particular pixel;

Determining a blurred value as a function of only the values of the selected pixels stored in the memory; and

Replacing the value of the particular pixel stored in memory with the blurred value;

A display for displaying the replaced values stored in memory and displaying the other values stored in memory which have not been replaced.

16. (currently amended) The system of claim 15 wherein $P=2^N$, $N = 1, 2$ or 3 and wherein the selected pixels selected by the processor are ~~different from and~~ contiguous to the particular pixel.

17. (currently amended) The system of claim 15 wherein $P=2^N$, said processor identifying another pixel of the plurality of pixels other than the particular pixel as an additional particular pixel, and for said additional particular pixel, said processor:

Selecting 2^M additional pixels from the plurality of pixels, where M is a positive integer and wherein the selected additional pixels are different from the particular pixel;
 Determining an additional blurred value as a function of only the values of the selected additional pixels; and
 Replacing the value of the additional particular pixel with the additional blurred value.

18. (currently amended) The system of claim 15 wherein $P=2^N$, said processor identifying each of the plurality of pixels other than the particular pixel as an additional particular pixel, and for each said additional particular pixel, said processor:

Selecting 2^M additional pixels from the plurality of pixels, where M is a positive integer and wherein the selected additional pixels are different from the particular pixel;
 Determining an additional blurred value as a function of only the values of the selected additional pixels; and
 Replacing the value of the additional particular pixel with the additional blurred value.

19. (currently amended) The system of claim 15 wherein $P=2^N$ and wherein ~~determining comprises calculating~~ said processor calculates an average of the values of the selected pixels and ~~wherein replacing comprises~~ replacing replaces the value of the particular pixel with the average.

20. (previously presented) The system of claim 15 wherein $P=2^N$ and wherein the determining and replacing is accomplished by processing all channels of the selected pixel in parallel.

21. (currently amended) A tangible computer readable storage medium having instructions for blurring a digital video image having a plurality of pixels, each having a value specifying color data, said instructions comprising:
 Identifying a particular pixel of the plurality of pixels;
 Selecting 2^N pixels from the plurality of pixels, where N is a positive integer and wherein the selected pixels are different from the particular pixel;
 Determining a blurred value as a function of only the values of the selected pixels; and
 Replacing the value of the particular pixel with the blurred value.
22. (currently amended) The medium of claim 21 wherein $[[P=2^N,]]$ N = 1, 2 or 3 and wherein the selected pixels are different from and contiguous to the particular pixel.
23. (currently amended) The medium of claim 21 ~~wherein $P=2^N$,~~ said instructions further comprising identifying another pixel of the plurality of pixels other than the particular pixel as an additional particular pixel, and for said additional particular pixel:
 Selecting 2^M additional pixels from the plurality of pixels, where M is a positive integer and wherein the selected additional pixels are different from the particular pixel;
 Determining an additional blurred value as a function of only the values of the selected additional pixels; and
 Replacing the value of the additional particular pixel with the additional blurred value.

24. (currently amended) The medium of claim 21 ~~wherein $P=2^N$~~ ,
 said instructions further comprising identifying each of
 the plurality of pixels other than the particular pixel as
 an additional particular pixel, and for each said
 additional particular pixel:
 Selecting 2^M additional pixels from the plurality of pixels,
 where M is a positive integer and wherein the selected
additional pixels are different from the particular pixel;
 Determining an additional blurred value as a function of
only the values of the selected additional pixels; and
 Replacing the value of the additional particular pixel with
 the additional blurred value.
25. (currently amended) The medium of claim 21 ~~wherein $P=2^N$~~ and
 wherein determining comprises calculating an average of the
 values of the selected pixels and wherein replacing
 comprises replacing the value of the particular pixel with
 the average.
26. (currently amended) The medium of claim 21 ~~wherein $P=2^N$~~ and
 wherein the determining and replacing is accomplished by
 processing all channels of the selected pixel in parallel.
27. (currently amended) A method of modifying pixel values from
 a plurality of pixel values of a digital video image in
order to blur the image, said method comprising:
 Identifying a particular pixel value;
 Selecting 2^N pixel values from the plurality of pixel
 values, where N is a positive integer and wherein the
selected pixel values are different from the particular
pixel value;

Determining a modified pixel value as a function of only the selected pixel values; and

Replacing the particular pixel value with the modified pixel value thereby blurring the digital video image including the replaced particular pixel value.

28. (currently amended) The method of claim 27 wherein $[[P=2^N,]]$ $N = 1, 2$ or 3 and wherein the selected pixel values are ~~different from and~~ contiguous to the particular pixel values.

29. (currently amended) The method of claim 27 ~~wherein $P=2^N$ and~~ further comprising identifying another pixel of the plurality of pixels other than the particular pixel as an additional particular pixel, and for said additional particular pixel:

Selecting 2^M additional pixels from the plurality of pixels, where M is a positive integer and wherein the selected additional pixels are different from the particular pixel;

Determining an additional blurred value as a function of only the values of the selected additional pixels; and

Replacing the value of the additional particular pixel with the additional blurred value.

30. (currently amended) The method of claim 27 ~~wherein $P=2^N$ and~~ further comprising identifying each of the plurality of pixels other than the particular pixel as an additional particular pixel, and for each said additional particular pixel:

Selecting 2^M additional pixels from the plurality of pixels, where M is a positive integer and wherein the selected additional pixels are different from the particular pixel;

Determining an additional blurred value as a function of only the values of the selected additional pixels; and
 Replacing the value of the additional particular pixel with the additional blurred value.

31. (currently amended) The method of claim 27 ~~wherein $P=2^N$ and~~ wherein determining comprises calculating an average of the values of the selected pixels and wherein replacing comprises replacing the value of the particular pixel with the average.

32. (currently amended) The method of claim 27 ~~wherein $P=2^N$ and~~ wherein the determining and replacing is accomplished by processing all channels of the selected pixel in parallel.

33. (currently amended) A method of blurring a digital video image having a plurality of pixels, each having a value specifying color data, said method comprising:

Identifying a particular pixel of the plurality of pixels;

Selecting 2^N pixels from the plurality of pixels, where N is a positive integer and wherein the selected pixels are different from the particular pixel;

masking the least significant N bits of the value of each selected pixel to get a modified value for each selected pixel

dividing the modified value of each selected pixel by 2^N to get a divided value for each selected pixel;

summing the divided values to get a total value; and

replacing the value of the particular pixel with the total value whereby the particular pixel has a blurred value.

34. (original) The method of claim 33 wherein $P=2^N$, $N = 1, 2$ or 3 and wherein the selected pixels are different from and contiguous to the particular pixel.

35. (currently amended) The method of claim 33 wherein $P=2^N$ and further comprising identifying another pixel of the plurality of pixels other than the particular pixel as an additional particular pixel, and for said additional particular pixel:

Selecting 2^M additional pixels from the plurality of pixels, where M is a positive integer and wherein the selected additional pixels are different from the particular pixel;

Determining an additional blurred value as a function of the values of the selected additional pixels; and

Replacing the value of the additional particular pixel with the additional blurred value.

36. (original) The method of claim 33 wherein $P=2^N$ and further comprising identifying each of the plurality of pixels other than the particular pixel as an additional particular pixel, and for each said additional particular pixel:

Selecting 2^M additional pixels from the plurality of pixels, where M is a positive integer;

Determining an additional blurred value as a function of the values of the selected additional pixels; and

Replacing the value of the additional particular pixel with the additional blurred value.

37. (original) The method of claim 33 wherein $P=2^N$ and wherein determining comprises calculating an average of the values of the selected pixels and wherein replacing comprises replacing the value of the particular pixel with the average.
38. (previously presented) The method of claim 33 wherein $P=2^N$ and wherein the determining and replacing is accomplished by processing all channels of the selected pixel in parallel.
39. - 44. (canceled).